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WEBSTER'S
New
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Dictionary

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Webster's new collegiate dictionary.

Editions for 1898-1948 have title: Webster's collegiate dictionary.
Includes index.

1. English language--Dictionaries.

PE1628.W4M4 1979 423 78-11140

ISBN 0-87779-358-1

ISBN 0-87779-359-X (indexed)

ISBN 0-87779-360-3 (deluxe)

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Made in the United States of America

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popcorn • porosity

pop-corn \pāp-kō(r)n\ *n*: an Indian corn (*Zea mays everta*) whose kernels on exposure to heat burst open to form a white starchy mass; also: the popped kernels

pope \pōp\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *pāpa*, fr. LL *papa*, fr. Gk *pappas*, *papas*, title of bishops, lit., *papa*] 1 often *cap*: a prelate who as bishop of Rome is the head of the Roman Catholic Church 2: one that resembles a pope (as in authority) 3: a priest of an Eastern church

pop-ery \pō-p(ə)-rē\ *n*: ROMAN CATHOLICISM — usu. used disparagingly

pop eye \pāp-ī\ *n* [back-formation fr. *pop-eyed*]: an eye staring and bulging (as from excitement) — **pop-eyed** \-īd\ *adj*

pop fly *n*: a high fly ball in baseball

pop-gun \pāp-gən\ *n*: a toy gun that usu. shoots a cork and produces a popping sound

pop-in-jay \pāp-ən-jā\ *n* [ME *papejay* parrot, fr. MF *papegai*, *papejal*, fr. Ar *babghā*]: a strutting supercilious person

pop-ish \pō-pish\ *adj* [*pop*]: Roman Catholic — often used disparagingly

pop-ish-ly *adv*: in accordance with Roman Catholicism — often used disparagingly

pop-lar \pāp-lār\ *n* [ME *poplere*, fr. MF *pouplier*, fr. *pouple* poplar, fr. L *populus*] 1 *a*: any of a genus (*Populus*) of slender quick-growing trees (as an aspen or cottonwood) of the willow family 2: the wood of a poplar 3: TULIP TREE

pop-lin \pāp-lən\ *n* [F *papeline*]: a strong fabric in plain weave with crosswise ribs

pop-lit-tle \pāp-lā-tē-lē\ also *pāp-lit-ē* \-ē\ *adj* [NL *popliteus*, fr. L *poplit-*, *poples* ham of the knee]: of or relating to the back part of the leg behind the knee joint

pop-off \pāp-ōf\ *n*: one who talks loosely or loudly

pop off \pāp-ōf\ *vi* 1 *a*: to leave suddenly 2: to die unexpectedly 2: to talk thoughtlessly and often loudly or angrily

pop-over \pāp-ō-vər\ *n*: a hollow quick bread shaped like a muffin and made from a thin batter of eggs, milk, and flour

pop-pa \pāp-ə\ *var* of PAPA

pop-per \pāp-ər\ *n*: one that pops; esp: a utensil for popping corn

pop-pet \pāp-ət\ *n* [ME *popet* doll, puppet — more at PUPPET] 1 chiefly Brit: DEAR 2 *a* Midland: DOLL *b* obs: MARIONETTE 3 *a*: an upright support or guide of a machine that is fastened at the bottom only 4: a valve that rises perpendicularly to or from its seat 4: any of the small pieces of wood on a boat's gunwale supporting or forming the rowlocks

pop-pied \pāp-ēd\ *adj* 1 archaic: growing or overgrown with poppies 2: DROWSY

pop-ple \pāp-əl\ *n* [ME *popul*, fr. OE, fr. L *populus*] chiefly dial: POPLAR

popple *n* [*popple*, vb., fr. ME *poplen* to bubble, ripple, prob. of imit. origin]: a choppy sea

pop-py \pāp-ē\ *n*, pl *pop-pies* [ME *popi*, fr. OE *popæg*, *popig*, modif. of L *papaver*] 1 *a*: any of a genus (*Papaver*) of the family Papaveraceae, the poppy family) of chiefly annual or perennial herbs with milky juice, showy regular flowers, and capsular fruits including one (*P. somniferum*) that is the source of opium and several that are cultivated as ornamentals 2: an extract or decoction of poppy used medicinally 3: a strong reddish orange

pop-py-cock \pāp-ē-kāk\ *n* [D dial. *pappetkak*, lit., soft dung, fr. D *pap* pap + *kak* dung]: empty talk: NONSENSE

pop-py-head \-hed\ *n*: a raised ornament often in the form of a finial generally used on the tops of the upright ends of seats in Gothic churches

Pop-sicle \pāp-sik-əl\ *trademark* — used for flavored and colored water frozen in a rectangular shape on two flat handles

pop-u-lace \pāp-yā-lās\ *n* [MF, fr. It *popolaccio* rabble, pejorative of *popolo* the people, fr. L *populus*] 1: the common people: MASSES 2: POPULATION

pop-u-lar \pāp-yā-lār\ *adj* [L *popularis*, fr. *populus* the people, a people] 1: of or relating to the general public 2: suitable to the majority: as *a*: easy to understand: PLAIN (*a* ~ history of the war) *b*: suited to the means of the majority: INEXPENSIVE (sold at ~ prices) 3: having general currency 4: commonly liked or approved (a very ~ girl) *syn* see COMMON *ant* unpopular, esoteric — **pop-u-lar-ly** *adv*

popular front *n*, often *cap* P&F: a working coalition esp. of leftist political parties against a common opponent; *specif*: one sponsored and dominated by Communists as a device for gaining power

pop-u-lar-ty \pāp-yā-lār-ət-ē\ *n*: the quality or state of being popular

pop-u-lar-ize \pāp-yā-lā-rīz\ *vb* -ized, -izing *vi*: to cater to popular taste ~ *vi*: to make popular: as *a*: to cause to be liked or esteemed *b*: to present in generally understandable or interesting form — **pop-u-lar-iza-tion** \pāp-yā-lā-rīz-ā-shən\ *n* — **pop-u-lar-ize-er** \pāp-yā-lā-rīz-ər\ *n*

popular sovereignty *n* 1: a doctrine in political theory that government is created by and subject to the will of the people 2: a pre-Civil War doctrine asserting the right of the people living in a newly organized territory to decide by vote of their territorial legislature whether or not slavery would be permitted there

pop-u-late \pāp-yā-lāt\ *vi* -lated, -lating [ML *popularis*, pp. of *populare* to people, fr. L *populus* people] 1: to have a place in: OCCUPY, INHABIT 2: *a*: to furnish or provide with inhabitants: PEOPLE *b*: to provide with members

pop-u-la-tion \pāp-yā-lā-shən\ *n* [LL *populatio*, *populatio*, fr. L *populus*] 1 *a*: the whole number of people or inhabitants in a country or region *b*: the total of individuals occupying an area or making up a whole *c*: the total of particles in a particular energy level — used esp. of atoms in a laser 2: the act or process of populating 3 *a*: a body of persons or individuals having a quality or characteristic in common *b* (1): the organisms inhab-

iting a particular locality (2): a group of interbreeding organisms that represents the level of organization at which speciation begins 4: a group of individual persons, objects, or items from which samples are taken for statistical measurement

population explosion *n*: a pyramiding of a living population; esp: the recent great increase in human numbers that is usu. related to both increased survival and increased reproduction

pop-u-list \pāp-yā-lis-t\ *n* [L *populus* the people] 1: a member of a political party claiming to represent the common people; esp. often *cap*: a member of a U.S. political party formed in 1891 primarily to represent agrarian interests and to advocate the free coinage of silver and government control of monopolies 2: a believer in the rights, wisdom, or virtues of the common people — **popu-lism** \-līz-əm\ *n* — **populist** also **pop-u-lis-tic** \pāp-yā-lis-tik\ *adj*, often *cap*

pop-u-lous \pāp-yā-ləs\ *adj* [L *populosus*, fr. *populus* people] 1: densely populated 2 *a*: NUMEROUS *b*: filled to capacity: CROWDED — **pop-u-lous-ly** *adv* — **pop-u-lous-ness** *n*

pop-up \pāp-əp\ *n*: POP FLY

por *abbr* portrait

POR *abbr* pay on return

por-bee-gle \pō(r)-bē-gəl\ *n* [Corn *porgh-bugel*]: a small viviparous shark (*Lamna nasus*) of the north Atlantic and Pacific oceans with a pointed nose and crescent-shaped tail

por-ce-lain \pōr-sē-lān\ *n* [Fr *porcelaine* cowrie shell, porcelain, fr. It *porcellana*, fr. *porcello* vulva, lit., little pig, fr. L *porcellus* dim. of *porcus* pig, vulva; fr. the shape of the shell — more at FARROW] *a* hard, fine-grained, sonorous, nonporous, and usu. translucent and white ceramic ware that consists essentially of kaolin, quartz, and feldspar and is fired at high temperatures. — **por-ce-lain-like** \-līk\ *adj* — **por-ce-la-neous** or **por-cel-la-neous** \pōr-sē-lā-nē-əs, pōr-adj\

porcelain enamel *n*: VITREOUS ENAMEL

por-ce-lain-ize \pōr-sē-lā-nīz\ *vi* -ized, -izing: to fire a vitreous coating on (as steel)

porch \pō(r)ch, pō(r)rch\ *n* [ME *porche*, fr. OF, fr. L *porticus* portico, fr. *porta* gate — more at FORD] 1: a covered entrance to a building usu. with a separate roof: VERANDA 2 obs: PORTICO

por-cine \pōr-sin\ *adj* [L *porcinus*, fr. *porcus* pig — more at FARROW]: of, relating to, or suggesting swine; esp: OBESE

por-cu-pine \pōr-kyā-pīn\ *n*, often *attrib* (ME *porkepin*, fr. MF *porc* espn, fr. Olt *porcos-pino*, fr. L *porcus* pig + *spina* spine, prickle): any of various relatively large rodents having stiff sharp erectile bristles mingled with the hair and constituting an Old World terrestrial family (Hystricidae) and a New World arboreal family (Erethizontidae)

pore \pō(r), pō(r)\ *vi* -pored; -ing [ME *pouren*] 1: to gaze intently 2: to read studiously or attentively 3: to reflect or meditate steadily

pore *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *porus*, fr. Gk *poros* passage, pore — more at FARE] 1: a minute opening esp. in an animal or plant; esp: one by which matter passes through a membrane 2: a small interstice (as in soil) admitting absorption or passage of liquid — **pored** \pō(r)d, pō(r)d\ *adj*

pore fungus *n*: a fungus (family Boletaceae or Polyporaceae) having the spore-bearing surface within tubes or pores

por-gy \pōr-gē\ *n*, pl *porgies* also *porgy* [partly fr. earlier *pargo* (porgy); partly fr. earlier *scuppaug* (porgy)] 1: a blue-spotted crimson percid food fish (*Pagrus pagrus*) of the coasts of Europe and America; also: any of various related fishes (family Sparidae) 2 [alter. of *porgy*]: any of various teleost fishes (as a menhaden) of families other than that of the porgy

por-ri-er-an \pō-rīf-ər-ən\ *n* [deriv. of L *porus* pore + -fer-ferous]: any of a phylum (Porifera) of primitive invertebrate animals comprising the sponges — **poriferan** or **po-rīf-er-al** \-rəl\ *adj*

pork \pō(r)k, pō(r)rk\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, pig, fr. L *porcus*] 1: the fresh or salted flesh of swine when dressed for food 2: government money, jobs, or favors used by politicians as patronage

pork barrel *n*: a government project or appropriation yielding rich patronage benefits

pork-er \pōr-kər, pōr-er\ *n*: HOG; esp: a young pig fattened for table use as fresh pork

pork-pie hat \pōrk-pī-, pōrk-er\ *n* [fr. its shape]: a felt, straw, or cloth hat with a low crown, flat top, and usu. a turned-up brim

pork-y \pōr-kē\ *n*, pl *porkies*: PORCUPINE

por-nog-ra-pher \pōr-nāg-rā-fər\ *n*: one who produces pornography

por-nog-ra-phy \-fē\ *n* [Gk *pornographos*, adj., writing of harlots, fr. *pornē* harlot + *graphō* to write; akin to Gk *permanai* to sell, *poros* journey — more at FARE, CARVE] 1: the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement 2: material (as books or a photograph) that depicts erotic behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement — **por-nog-raph-ic** \pōr-nō-grāf-ik\ *adj* — **por-nog-raph-ic-ly** \-ik-ē\ *adv*

por-rose \pō(r)-rōs, pō(r)-rə\ *adj*: divided into or forming a continuous series of pores (as ~ hymenium)

por-ros-ity \pō-rōs-ət-ē, pō-rās-ē\ *n*, pl *-ties* 1 *a*: the quality or state of being porous *b*: the ratio of the volume of interstices of a material to the volume of its mass 2: PORE



poppy 1a



porcupine



pork 1: 1 hind foot, 2 ham, 3 fatback, 4 loin, 5 side, 6 Boston butt, 7 picnic, 8 jawl, 9 forefoot